GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2101
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
COAL SHORTAGE IN POWER PLANTS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Thermal Power Plants facing a huge shortage of coal and gas to meet its power generation capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into any joint venture with any Indian and foreign company to secure coal linkage for its power plants in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which such joint ventures are likely to resolve coal crisis of Thermal Power Projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b) : The coal supply position to thermal power stations in the country is not comfortable. As on 27th November, 2007, 29 thermal power stations had critical stock of less than 7 days. Of these, 15 are super critical having a stock for less than 4 days. The All India stock at power stations was 8.689 Million Tonnes (MT) against the normative requirement of about 22 MT. The reasons for the same is less production of coal in the coal mines, particularly in the coalfields of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Bharat Coking Coalfields Ltd.(BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) during the monsoon period and subsequently due to bandhs, blockades and other law & order problems. Several gas based power plants are also facing shortage of gas to generate power to their capacity. Against a gas requirement of 65.69 MMSCMD for 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) as on 31st October, 2007, the average gas supply during the period April- October 2007 has been 35.82 MMSCMD.

(c) & (d) : NTPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Coal India Ltd. for jointly promoting one or more Joint Venture Companies for undertaking the development, operation and maintenance of coal block(s) and integrated Coal Based Power Plants.

NTPC has also signed an MOU with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Companies Act, 1956 for the purpose or sourcing of coking coal and thermal coal from overseas as a strategic measure to meet the country`s requirements in the Steel and Power sectors.

NTPC has so far not entered into any Joint Venture agreement with a Foreign Company to secure coal linkage for its power plants in the country.

(e) : As a part of developing strategic alliances as well as deriving technical strength, Joint Ventures, are contemplated for enhanced fuel security.